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# PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

AN EVALUATION OF THE INTELLIGENCE PRODUCT OF A CHINA SOURCE

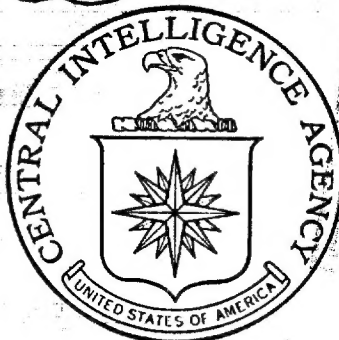
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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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### AN EVALUATION OF THE INTELLIGENCE PRODUCT OF A CHINA SOURCE

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This evaluation is based on comparison of the information contained in 20 reports from a China source with photographic intelligence from [REDACTED] aerial photography. Roughly 50 percent of the information contained in these reports was judged false. Thirty percent was confirmed, and 20 percent could not be judged. Approximately 75 percent of the valid information had already been determined from photography.

#### Comments on Individual Reports

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[REDACTED] The report located a mobile radar unit in the Ching-yang area. The existence and location of the radar gear was accurate. The description of the gear, its function, and its placement under a stone arch are all inaccurate. The last sentence of the report, "It was rumored that a similar unit was located near Ching-yang Airfield", was particularly suspect in that this radar unit, which was accurately located, was within 2,000 feet of the airfield. The report, as sourced, does not appear to be based on observation, but rather on hearsay or fabrication of details. From this project there have been several reports in which basic information was accurate but details were not.

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[REDACTED] The information contained in paragraphs 9 and 10 of this report has been confirmed by aerial photography, but it has been available also in Chinese mainland newspaper and radio reports. The substance of paragraphs 1, 4, and 7, found to be either false or greatly exaggerated, has not been available from these Chinese mainland sources.

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[REDACTED] This report, which was more accurate than usual, is the only one in which there is an indication of a feed back from [REDACTED] aerial photography. The 17 or 18 "power poles" referred to in paragraph 2 were described as being constructed of "about seven [REDACTED] logs." Low oblique photography reveals that the antennae poles were constructed of seven stepped poles as reported. There were 12 antennae, rather than 17 or 18 as reported. This degree of detail has been lacking from other reports from this source. It would seem at least exceptional for a casual, untrained observer, who did not know that he would be questioned later, to know the number of steps in a radio mast. This, coupled with the fact that low obliques were taken of this installation in which the seven steps of the antenna were clearly visible, while not conclusive, is worth noting as a possible indication of a feed back of information from [REDACTED] aerial photography.

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[REDACTED] This report was superior to the other reports evaluated in this study. In general, the information was more complete, more detailed, and far more accurate. Another striking feature is that this report was the only one in which any information on dam and irrigation canal construction was mentioned.

Major Construction Reported by this Source  
Compared with Overt Information

A notable feature of reports from this source has been the absence of reporting on dam and irrigation canal construction, with the exception of one paragraph of [REDACTED] noted above. In the less than 100 miles of coast line between Lung-chi and Kai-an, 20

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dams and approximately 90 miles of 35-foot irrigation canals have been or are being constructed. The bulk of this construction took place between late [REDACTED]. This project has been greater in work volume and engineering scope in this area than either the railroad or causeways. It is interesting to note that the railroad and airfields on which this source has reported frequently have also been covered frequently on mainland radio and in newspapers. However, in opposition to this, the causeways, on which this source also reported frequently, were not reported on radio until 26 [REDACTED]. The only report of dam construction, (Tung-an dam, [REDACTED] was acquired on [REDACTED] and had an information date of late [REDACTED]. The construction was not reported on radio until [REDACTED]. The dams near Hui-an were mentioned in the Hui-an men pao (an Amoy daily) on [REDACTED]. Unfortunately, only a few of these Amoy newspapers are available and it cannot therefore be stated definitely that the Tung-an dam was not reported in this newspaper.

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#### Conclusion

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In spite of the fact that approximately 75 percent of the information reported by this source is known from current photography, there is an ever present possibility that the photographic source could be cut off or seriously diminished. This would certainly be the case if the newly constructed airfields in southeast China were activated.

The reports, as evaluated by this office, have not evidenced any particular quality consistently enough to allow conclusions as to the sources' validity. Their inconsistency, on the other hand, goes a long way toward establishing the sources as untrained, unwitting observers, as represented.

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